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A LONG, LONG WAY FROM MATA HARI

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IS THE TV image of the CIA in danger of overexposure?

A good many people who watched John Chancellor's NBC report on "The Science of Spying" the other night must have asked themselves this question.

And those among them who watched the Today Show the following morning must have asked it again — for there was Frank Blair telling them that the Central Intelligence Agency, at a secret meeting, had awarded Francis Gary Powers a medal so secret that the former U-2 pilot will not be allowed to display it.

If the CIA finds it necessary to dis-

guise its Langley, Va., headquarters as a "Bureau of Public Roads", it makes no sense to publicize this fact on television. Neither does it make any sense for its former director, Allen W. Dulles, to deny that the CIA is engaged in the business of overthrowing governments on a program boasting of the fact that it has overthrown several governments in several countries.

As Chancellor remarked in introducing his show, "We've come a long way from Mata Hari." We have indeed, but in what direction?

Well-run secret services have traditionally preferred to wash their dirty linen in private.